

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 LIBREV 02100 200751Z

11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 HEW-02 /041 W

----- 112331

R 191140Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7206

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 2100

YAOUNDE FOR RDO KOEHRING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, GB

SUBJ: GOG TO BAIL OUR SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL

REF: STATE 292356

1. THOUGH REUTERS DESPATCH MENTIONED REFTEL WAS PRE-MATURE, GOG COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DID DECIDE ON DECEMBER 17 TO INSURE THAT "WORK OF ALBERT SCHWEITZER WILL NOT DIE." COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEETING ANNOUNCED

THAT GOG WILL "PURSUE WORK OF SCHWEITZER BY CREATING COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH DECIDING NECESSARY MEASURES IN ALL AREAS AFFECTING THE PURSUIT OF THE NORMAL ACTIVITIES OF THE HOSPITAL." COUNCIL FURTHER DECLARED THAT "IN ADDITION TO ITS USUAL ACTIVITIES, SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL WILL SPECIALIZE IN TREATMENT AND RESEARCH IN CERTAIN TROPICAL DISEASES" AND CITED LEPROSY, SLEEPING SICKNESS, AND PARASITOSIS AS EXAMPLES.

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES, SUPPORT FOR HOSPITAL WAS OPPOSED BY LIBREVILLE MEDICAL PROFESSION, WHICH HAS LONG RESENTED NUMBER OF POTENTIAL PATIENTS WHO TRAVEL FROM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LIBREV 02100 200751Z

CAPITAL TO LAMBARENE FOR TREATMENT (ROUGHLY ONE-FOURTH OF SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL'S SURGICAL PATIENTS ARE FROM

LIBREVILLE). MAJOR LOBBYING EFFORT ON BEHALF OF HOSPITAL WAS DONE BY MINSTATE RAWIRI, NATIVE OF LAMBARENE, WHO IS CREDITED BY MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS AS MAN WHO WON THE DAY IN GOG DELIBERATIONS.

3. SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR HOSPITAL REMAINS TO BE SEEN, AS NO PROVISION MADE FOR THIS PURPOSE IN BUDGET FOR NEW FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1. MINISTRY OF HEALTH WILL PRESUMABLY BE DIRECTED TO COVER OPERATING COSTS FROM ITS REGULAR BUDGET, BUT MONEY FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION MAY BE HARDER TO COME BY AT TIME WHEN GOG IS SLOWING DOWN OTHER PROJECTS TO CONTROL RATE OF CASH OUTFLOW. FED HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE SOURCE OF FINANCING FOR NEW FACILITIES, BUT LOCAL FED REP INDICATED THIS COULD PROBABLY BE DONE ONLY BY SHIFTING FUNDS FROM OTHER FED COMMITMENTS IN GABON AS TOTAL AMOUNT EARMARKED FOR GOG IS UNLIKELY TO BE INCREASED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. ACCORDING FRENCH AMBASSADOR, MEDICAL DIRECTOR HABICHT HAS NOT MERELY RESIGNED BUT HAS ALREADY LEFT GABON. AMBASSADOR KNEW OF NO CURRENT EFFORTS TO RECRUIT RE-PLACEMENT, SO STAND-IN PROPOSED BY AMERICAN SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP MIGHT BE MOST WELCOME IF NAME PUT FORWARD PROMPTLY TO FOUNDATION AND GOG.

5. FOR PARIS: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PASSING PARA ONE ABOVE TO MICHAEL GOLDSMITH OF AP PARIS AT 359-86-70 AS FOLLOW-UP TO HIS CALL HERE LAST WEEK. STEIGMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEDICAL CARE, RESEARCH, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, HOSPITALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIBREV02100
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750443-0465
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751224/aaaaavcq.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 292356
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOG TO BAIL OUR SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, AMED, GB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006